

The Listening Post

A newsletter from the Kentucky Talking Book Library

Number 51

Spring 2008

Digital Conversion Update

In late 2008, the Kentucky Talking Book Library may receive its first shipment of new Digital Talking Book (DTB) players. These digital players are smaller, lighter, and easier to use than the cassette players currently in circulation. Digital Talking Books are contained on flash cartridges roughly the size and shape of a cassette, but readers can play the book continuously without having to turn the cartridge over or select a side. Because each cartridge can hold 46 hours of recording, most books will come on one cartridge, with a few of the longest books requiring two. Other new features of the DTB player include longer battery life and the ability to bookmark multiple passages for easy reference.

Patrons with high-speed internet access will probably be able to download digital books directly onto their players. The National Library Service (NLS) is currently testing this possibility with the ongoing Braille and Audio Reading Download test program. Those patrons who have purchased their own compatible DTB machines may participate by contacting KTBL. In addition to the Victor Reader Stream, NLS has announced that two more players, the LevelStar Icon and Braille+, are now compatible with the download program. Please see the following websites for product information and pricing:

<http://www.levelstar.com> for the LevelStar Icon

http://www.apf.org/tech/pda_info.htm for Braille+

<http://www.humanware.com> for the Victor Reader Stream

By law, honorably-discharged U.S. military veterans will be the first patrons to receive the Digital Talking Book players, followed by 10² members. Most likely all of Kentucky's first shipments will go toward this purpose. Due to budget

shortfalls for the Library of Congress, it will take four years or more for all Talking Book patrons to receive new players. KTBL has not yet determined how it will distribute subsequent shipments of players after all veterans and 10² members have received a machine, but we recommend that all patrons remain in good standing (Please see next article for our “Patron in Good Standing Policy”).

All of the magazines and most older Talking Book titles will be available only on cassette in the foreseeable future, so the cassette books and players will continue to circulate for the next several years. If you have any questions regarding the transition to digital players or would like to inform us of your veteran’s status, please contact the library at 1-800-372-2968.

Patron in Good Standing Policy

A patron in good standing is different from an active patron. An active patron is one whose service has not been cancelled. A patron in good standing is one whose record shows they actively use the service and can be relied on to follow KTBL policy by returning items on time and in good condition.

It is likely that a patron’s standing will be taken into consideration when assigning new digital talking book players as they become available. It may take 4-6 years for every patron to receive one, so this equipment will be in high demand during that time. All patrons should strive to maintain good standing, but those who are interested in receiving digital equipment are especially encouraged to do so.

The following is the Kentucky Talking Book Library’s policy defining a patron in good standing.

1. current status—
 - a. The patron is currently registered with KTBL and has checked out and promptly returned at least 1 book in the past 6 months.
 - b. The patron has no record of inactivity for the past year.
 - c. The patron may be Magazine Only status with at least 1 magazine subscription other than those for catalogs and newsletters.
2. overdues—
 - a. Overdues are defined as Braille and recorded books checked out longer than 1 month, plus a 1-week grace period. DVS/DVD movies are overdue if checked out longer than 2 weeks, plus a 3-day grace period.
 - b. The patron currently has no overdue items.
 - c. The patron has a record of no more than 1 instance of overdues in the last year, and that instance does not comprise more than 25% of the patron’s total circulation.

3. lost items—

- a. Lost items are defined as those the patron claims to have returned, as well as those that were never returned.
- b. The patron has a record of no more than 1 instance of lost items in the past year, and that instance does not comprise more than 25% of the patron's total circulation.

4. damaged books—

- a. Damaged books are defined as those with broken tapes, broken cases, missing tapes, or incorrect tapes.
- b. Normal use often results in damaged books, so KTBL generally does not record them on patron records.
- c. Blatant negligence or vandalism will be noted on patron records and repeated occurrences will affect patron standing.

5. machines—

- a. Damaged machines are defined as those that show signs of destruction beyond reasonable wear and tear, or are so filthy they must be disposed of. Infested machines are those returned with live or dead insects.
- b. The patron has only 1 machine on loan.
- c. The patron has no record of lost, damaged, or infested machines in the past 5 years.

Volunteer Spotlight

Last year volunteers logged over 1200 hours with KTBL's recording program and completed 45 books. We would like to show our appreciation by profiling one of the volunteers from time to time in The Listening Post. For this issue we have chosen Joyce Honaker, a former policy researcher for the Legislative Research Commission in Frankfort.

As a student at Miami University in Oxford, OH, Joyce read and recorded books for the organization Sight Conservation and Aid to the Blind as part of her sorority's volunteer efforts. After moving to Kentucky, she looked for a way to continue with a similar program and was directed to KTBL by a librarian at Kentucky State University in 1978. In addition to narrating dozens of books, Joyce learned to monitor other readers in 2003. She continues to pull double duty as narrator/monitor, but she prefers working in front of the microphone because it involves less technology.

In addition to her work with KTBL, Joyce also volunteers with Project Amigo, an organization that promotes literacy and health in Mexico. She and her husband, a retired optometrist, recently spent a week in the state of Colima, Mexico, helping to screen over 1,170 patients for vision problems and provide them with glasses. In one instance, a 75-year-old man was able to see clearly for the first time in decades. Joyce will return to Mexico in November for a literacy week to bring books to rural schools and young children.

While Joyce prefers to read Robert Parker books and other mysteries in her spare time, she has narrated everything from romances and Christian fiction to Kentucky histories and essays on writing. On the inside back page of the newsletter, Joyce has chosen some of her favorite Kentucky books she has recorded for the Talking Book Library, as well as some of her favorite reads from the rest of our collection.

Helpful Hints

Having trouble finding the side selector switch on your cassette player? Here's a helpful hint from Talking Books patron Charles Williams of Paducah: Mark the switch with a self-adhesive felt pad like those used under furniture to locate it more easily. He also uses this technique to find important buttons on his TV remote, space heater, and other small appliances.

We received another good hint from patron Ken Dossey of Glasgow. Ken uses puffy paint to label canned goods so he can identify their contents later. For example, he marks "C" for corn, "CC" for creamed corn, and "P" for peas.

If you have any hints or advice for people with visual or physical disabilities, please share them with your librarian. Look for more wisdom from Talking Books patrons in future issues of The Listening Post.

Memorial Day

KTBL will be closed on Monday, May 26, 2008, in observance of Memorial Day. If you need to contact us that day, please leave a message on our voicemail and we will return your call as soon as possible.

Donations

KTBL would like to thank the following people for making donations to our library. Your generosity makes our programs possible and is greatly appreciated by both staff and readers.

Hayden & Joyce Branscum
Eunice Clark
John M. Cook
Ralph & Reba Cotton
John & Billie Harrison

Hollis S. Keene
Truman Laurence
Mary C. Logan
Nathan B. Pierce

If you would like to contribute to KTBL, please make your check or money order payable to the Kentucky Talking Book Library, P.O. Box 537, Frankfort, KY 40602-0537. Please do not send cash through the mail. Donations are 100% tax deductible. The Talking Book Library does not solicit donations by phone or by

mail. If you receive such a request, please be aware that it does not come from or benefit KTBL.

New DVDs

The titles below have been added to KTBL's descriptive DVD collection. If you would like to place any of these on your request list, please contact Greta Wise at 1-800-372-2968, ext. 279, or speak with your librarian.

DVD-00152 : *Go for Broke* – Veterans of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team star in this film about a highly decorated squad of Japanese-Americans who volunteered for service in WWII despite having been placed in internment camps. Van Johnson also stars as the regiment's commanding officer. 1950.

DVD-00153: *Walk in the Sun* – A gritty portrayal of an American infantry platoon given a dangerous mission in Italy during WWII. Casualties mount as the platoon moves deeper into enemy territory. Starring Dana Andrews, Richard Conte, John Ireland and Lloyd Bridges. 1945.

DVD-00154: *Black Brigade* – Stephen Boyd, Robert Hooks, Richard Pryor, Billy Dee Williams and Rosie Grier star in this dramatic WWII story. In 1944 Germany, the Allies charge a US Army Captain with preventing retreating German forces from blowing up a strategic dam. The Captain must complete the mission using the Black Brigade, a unit composed of black GI's. 1969.

We also have three TV movies from *Touch of Frost: Season One*. This British series, set in the village of Denton, follows Detective Inspector Jack Frost as he solves cases by using street smarts and dry wit.

DVD-00155: *Touch of Frost: Care & Protection* – As his terminally ill wife languishes in bed, Frost investigates a missing child case. Meanwhile, a former bank employee is murdered after a skeleton chained to a strongbox is unearthed, and Frost must find the killer. 1992.

DVD-00156: *Touch of Frost: Not with Kindness* – As Frost grieves for his newly deceased wife, her visiting sister from the States makes his life unbearable. On the job, Frost searches for a missing teenager, and a victim of threatening phone calls wakes in the night to find her home engulfed in flames. 1992.

DVD-00157: *Touch of Frost: Conclusions* – The son of a prominent Denton official is involved in a hit-and-run that kills an elderly man. After a casino is robbed of the night's takings, an armed and dangerous fugitive takes a pair of hostages. 1992.

Important Items to Remember

Kentucky Talking Book Library

P.O. Box 537

Frankfort, KY 40602-0537

1-800-372-2968 (toll-free)

1-502-564-8300 ext 276 (local)

Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. EDT

You may leave a voice mail message after hours.

We want you to enjoy Talking Books. Your librarian will tailor your service to suit your needs. She will be happy to assist you in any way possible. Please do not hesitate to call us for any of the following:

- **to make book requests**
- **with any questions or problems**
- **whenever your name, address, or telephone number changes**
- **to temporarily stop service**
- **if you want to change the types of books you get, or the number of books you receive**
- **when you have problems with books or machines**
- **if you want to change the format of your newsletters or catalogs**
- **to cancel your service**

Include your name, address, and telephone number on all correspondence, request lists, e-mails, and telephone messages. We frequently receive request lists with no name and no way to identify the sender.

Please return each book as soon as you finish it. The maximum loan period is 30 days.

Kentucky magazines and the cassette version of *The Listening Post* must be returned to KTBL within 30 days. Keeping the magazine or newsletter longer may prevent you from receiving future issues.

Remember to rewind all movies and cassette tapes before returning them.

Mark an "X" on the mail card of any defective book. Do not mark on the cassette.

Take care of all cassette books, Braille books, and cassette players; keep them free of food, liquids, dust, and debris.

Please keep this list for future reference.

Spring 2008 Book Order – Titles Chosen by Joyce Honaker

If you would like to add any of these titles to your request list, please call your librarian at 1-800-372-2968, or check the boxes beside the titles and mail this sheet to: Kentucky Talking Book Library, P.O. Box 537, Frankfort, KY 40602.

Kentucky Titles Narrated by Joyce Honaker

- ☐ KY 02756 – Teasing Secrets from the Dead: My Investigations at America's Most Infamous Crimes Scenes by Emily Craig. Kentucky's forensic anthropologist discusses her career investigating unsolved murder and missing-person cases. She also worked on the tragedies at Waco and 9/11. 2004.
- ☐ KY 02551 – The Joy Cart by Marvin Bartlett. Jarrett Mynear was a KY boy suffering from a rare bone cancer. Despite his illness, he organized a nationally recognized program to provide toys to seriously ill children. 2002.
- ☐ KY 02268 – Conversations with Kentucky Writers, edited by L. Elisabeth Beattie. Interviews with 20 writers who call Kentucky home. Whether they have left the state, returned to it, or adopted it, each shares the influence Kentucky has had on their life and writings. Long—7 cassettes in two containers. 1996.
- ☐ KY 01446 – The Queen's Gambit by Walter Tevis. A suspenseful story about a mistreated orphan girl who becomes a chess prodigy and gets involved in a high-stakes competition. Some language and sex. 1983.

Joyce's Favorite Titles from Our National Collection

- ☐ RC 55503 or ☐ BR 15865 – The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency by Alexander McCall Smith. Mma "Precious" Ramotswe opens a detective agency in Botswana when she inherits her father's cattle. People consult her about straying husbands, fraudulent business associates, and missing children. Along the way she learns their life stories and tales of Africa. Bestseller. 1998.
- ☐ RC 46882 or ☐ BR 11745 – The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver. An American missionary family lands in the village of Kilanga in the Congo in 1959, and the cultural confrontation begins immediately. The mother and four daughters react to their new environment, the villagers respond to their new preacher, and the family dynamics change. Bestseller. 1999.
- ☐ RC 60317 – The World Is Flat by Thomas L. Friedman. Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist and author of The Lexus and the Olive Tree (☐ RC 48435) explores what he calls the world's "flattening" -- a leveling of the "global competitive playing field" driven by technology and an increasingly diverse population. Examines other causes as well as foreign policy and economic implications. Bestseller. 2005.



In providing information to readers of The Listening Post, the Kentucky Talking Book Library does not endorse any product or service referred to in this newsletter.

The Listening Post



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**KENTUCKY TALKING BOOK LIBRARY
P O BOX 537
FRANKFORT KY 40602-0537**

**FREE MATTER FOR THE
BLIND AND
PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED**



The Listening Post is available in large print, cassette, Braille, and e-mail formats. Call 1-800-372-2968 to request another format.

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